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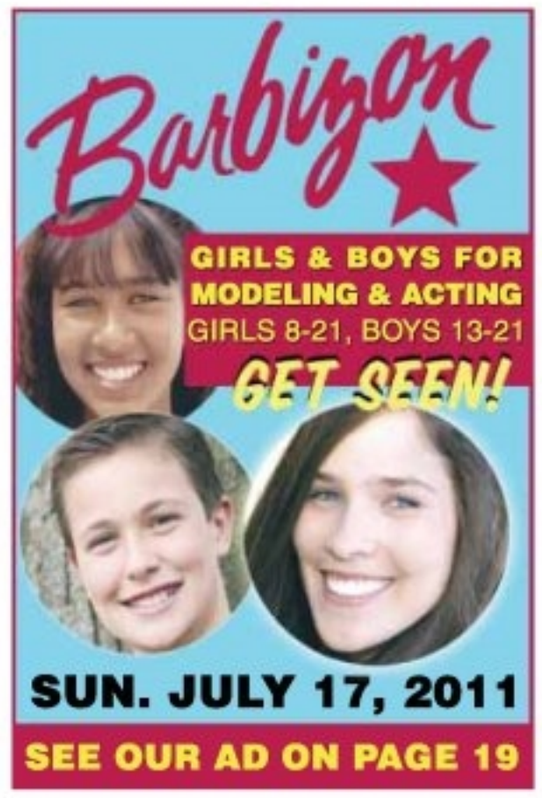

GETTY IMAGES

Is Murdoch's empire crumbling?

- US shares of News Corp. tumble nearly 15 percent since last week
- Meanwhile, New Yorkers vow boycott of Rupert's papers
- America all too ready to believe he OK'd phone hacking {page 02}

News

Kidnap victim: No way out

- Jaycee Dugard was too 'manipulated' to flee her captor
- After being held 18 years, she pens memoir {page 07}

What is next for Precious?

Author who created character says it's not exactly happily ever after {page 16}

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Murdoch's melting mass media empire

● US shares of News Corp. tumble ● Some demand Congress investigate if any Americans were hacked ● New Yorkers vow boycott of Post, WSJ

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ "I can live without his papers. I think it's ghoulish, reprehensible and disgusting," said Brooklyn resident Jim Riches of the phone-hacking scandal that's tarnished Rupert Murdoch's vast news conglomerate.

Boycott brewing

MANHATTAN. Some New Yorkers have begun boycotting Murdoch's newspapers.

"I don't need that sort of sleazy reporting," said Jim Riches, 60, of Dyker Heights, Brooklyn , who lost his son, firefighter James Riches, in 9/11. "I'm not going to buy the Post or the Journal until he proves he wasn't involved."

"I think Murdoch knew," added John Feal, a Long Island resident who runs an advocacy network for 9/11 issues. "There's a special place in hell for any journalist who does something like this." METRO/EAE

Rupert Murdoch's New York media empire is in jeopardy as allegations fly that his journalists routinely hacked their way into the private information of citizens and high-ranking elected officials alike across the pond.

The hacking scandal has now slammed onto American shores. Stock market shares for Murdoch's News Corp. are off almost 15 percent since last week.

And just yesterday, the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington asked Congress to investigate whether Murdoch's minions hacked the voice mails of any Americans.

"It is becoming increasingly clear this scandal was not perpetrated by a few rogue reporters, but was systematically orchestrated at the highest levels," said CREW director Melanie Sloan. "If Mr. Murdoch's employees can be so brazen as to target the British prime minister, then it is not unreasonable to believe they also might hack into the voice mails of American politicians and citizens."

Here in the States, Murdoch owns The Wall Street Journal, the New York Post, and Fox News, among other media giants.

The investigation is also tightening on Les Hinton, The Wall Street Journal publisher who also served as the head of Murdoch's News International from 1995 to 2007, when some of the hacking is alleged to have occurred.

Hinton was supposed to have investigated how pervasive the phone hacking had become in 2005 and 2006, and assured the U.K. Parliament that the practice had been abolished at the time.

Allegations of coverups and criminal violations of privacy could cause American law enforcement organizations to look into Murdoch's affairs.

The United States Department of Justice may use the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act to launch an investigation of allegations that News Corp. routinely paid police officers bribes for information, according to The Sydney Morning Herald.

"There's nothing Murdoch could do to make me trust him again," said Russel Mercer, 64, of Flushing.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
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Thumbs down

As news of the widening scandal spread, stock market shares for News Corp. fell nearly 8 percent yesterday.

Dirty dozen?

Nine journalists and three police officers are facing jail over corruption charges so far. Four of the highest-profile alleged offenders:

- **Andy Coulson**, British Prime Minister David Cameron's former communications manager was arrested last week for questioning by police over his knowledge of the hacking practice during his tenure as editor at News of the World.
- **Rebekah Brooks,** head of News International, was editor of the News of the World at the time that employees of the paper allegedly hacked the phone of 13-year-old Milly Dowler, who was missing and later found murdered.
- **Jamie Murdoch**, heir apparent of the Murdoch empire, could also be "ensnared" by the scandal
- **Les Hinton**, then head of News International, may have botched a phone hacking coverup in 2005 and 2006.

In the news

Summer vacation for DSK

The Manhattan district attorney's office announced yesterday that the case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn was adjourned until Aug. 1. Erin Duggan, a spokeswoman for the district attorney, said no decision about a plea deal or dropping charges has been made. METRO/AB

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New twist in LI murder mystery

Man says he called missing woman's family But previously denied the call '48 Hours' airs tonight

A Long Island doctor reversed his story about what happened the night Shannan Gilbert vanished, according to a one-hour "48 Hours Mystery" special about the Gilgo Beach killings, which will air tonight at 10.

Peter Hackett, long reported as one of the last people to see the missing Gilbert, had denied that he reached out to her family, as her mother alleged.

But tonight, the show reveals that he acknowledged making two calls to Gilbert's family last May, saying he only offered to help search.

▶ Gilbert's sister, left, with a "48 Hours" reporter.

Mari Gilbert offers a different account: She said that Hackett, who is not a suspect in the case, said he ran a halfway house for runaways and that her daughter was with him the day she vanished.

The special also features Police Commissioner Richard Dormer, who says they are not near an arrest but are closer to finding the killer. "We're making progress," Dormer told CBS correspondent Erin Moriarty.

Police say they suspect a serial killer is behind as many as 10 remains found around Gilgo Beach. Four were women who police believed were prostitutes and preyed upon by a killer who found them on Craigslist. Suffolk County police offer $25,000 for any tips leading to an arrest.

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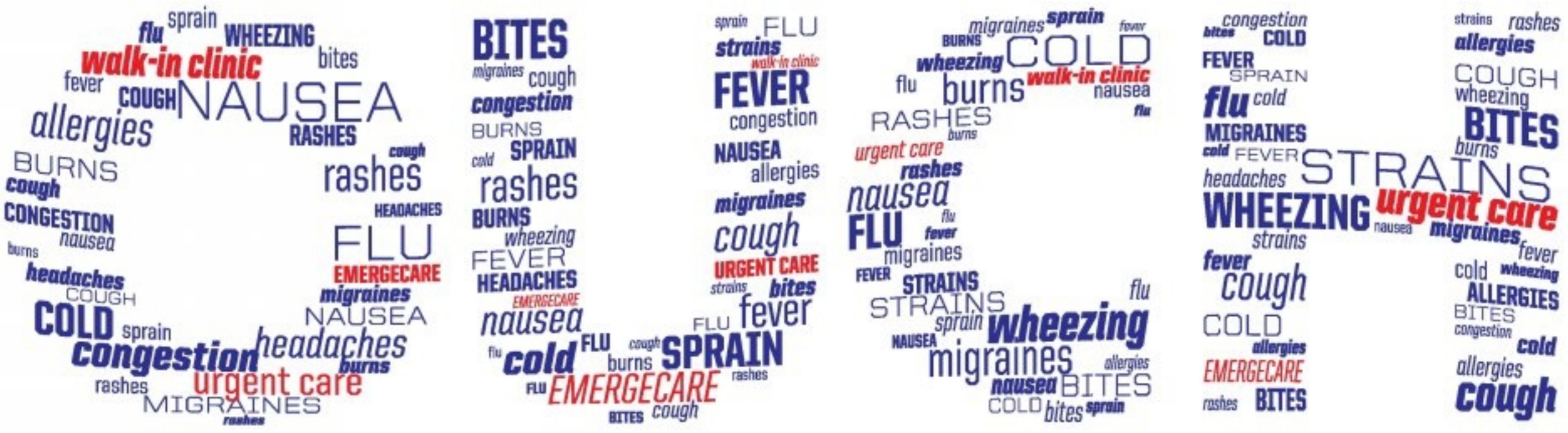
DIANE BONDAREFF/AP IMAGES FOR GILLETTE

Baseball. 3,000 career hits

▶ Two brothers, Harsha and Sanjay Sridhar, type their message to Derek Jeter yesterday.

Yankees fans congratulate Jeter

Nearly 5,000 fans — including these two, Harsha and Sanjay Sridhar, brothers from Atlanta, Ga. — signed a massive card yesterday at Grand Central Station for Derek Jeter. The card, sponsored by Gillette, congratulated the Yankees player on his 3,000th career hit. METRO/CB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Judge dismisses mosque lawsuit

Firefighter who survived attacks said he would be unable to commemorate 9/11 with a mosque nearby

A judge dismissed a firefighter's lawsuit over New York's decision to allow an Islamic cultural center and mosque to be built near the site of the Sept. 11 attacks, a ruling his lawyer said yesterday would be appealed.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Paul Feinman granted the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission's motion to reject the suit by Timothy Brown, who survived the attacks nearly 10 years ago.

U.S. conservatives and many New Yorkers have spoken out against the proposed center. The project generated intense national debate last year, drawing in President Barack Obama, who said he supported the organizers' right to build.

▶ The mosque sparked national controversy.

The judge rejected the firefighter's claim that he would be unable to properly commemorate Sept. 11 with the mosque nearby.

"Mr. Brown's claim that his ability to commemorate will be injured is not yet recognized under the law as a concrete injury," the judge wrote. "Such an injury, although palpable to Brown, is immeasurable by a court."

Brown's attorney, Brett Joshpe of the American Center for Law and Justice said yesterday that an appeal would be filed within weeks, which could extend the legal battle over the mosque for years. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ 51 Park Place is the site of a proposed community center and mosque in Lower Manhattan.

"This decision fails to give appropriate consideration to first responders and others who risked their lives and lost loved ones on September 11th."
JOSHPE

Failed landmark attempt

NEW YORK. In August, the preservation panel denied landmark status to the building that will make way for the planned 16-story community center. The ACLJ argued at a hearing in March that the site should be deemed a landmark because it was struck by landing gear from one of the hijacked planes flown into the World Trade Center. REUTERS

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Welcome back to Metro Giving! Every other Tuesday, Metro highlights a New Yorker or an organization that is giving back, from a Midtown man who gave his kidney to a stranger to an Upper East Side woman who rescues kittens. New York is a city of givers and we want to hear your story. E-mail charity@metro.us

Military kids get school supplies

Group gives out free backpacks to children in city's military families

Afghanistan war veteran Larry Rivera has four children under the age of eight and three of them brought home multipage lists of school supplies last year.

Thanks to Operation Homefront, a group that helps military families, Rivera's children got the pencils, erasers and crayons they needed.

"It helps out a lot," said Rivera, 29, an East New York native and Army specialist who is based at Fort Hamilton in Bay Ridge.

Through its Back-to-School Brigade program, the group collects school supplies at local Dollar Tree and Deal$ stores, and gives them out to New York City children in military families.

"It's just something that mom or dad don't have to worry about when they've got a loved one overseas," said Tracy Handschuh at Operation Homefront of New York and New Jersey.

Priority goes to children of disabled or deployed military families, she said. Last year, 50 backpacks were packed at the Lexington Avenue Armory, as well as 200 that were given out to military children at Fort Hamilton.

If readers want to help, they can drop off school supplies until July 25 at any Dollar Tree or Deal$ store in the New York City area, or donate online at www.operationhomefront.net.

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Get involved

Upcoming charity opportunities and events:

- **Tuesday, July 19:** The Wgirls is a national charity that serves people in need around the world. Their New York City chapter will host "Sunset on the Hudson," on July 19, which will benefit Sunrise Day Camp on Long Island for children ages 3-16 who have cancer, and their siblings. Tickets are $30 each in advance or four for $100 for a night at Hudson Terrace.
- **Tuesday, July 19:** Generation NXT will hold a benefit at the Gansevoort Park Avenue Hotel to fight pancreatic cancer.

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▶ A volunteer loads up backpacks last year at the Lexington Avenue Armory.

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Jaycee tells why escape was out of the question

Held for 18 years, kidnap victim's memoir set to hit shelves today

JILL BELSLEY/ABC NEWS/REUTERS

▶ Almost 15 million viewers watched Diane Sawyer's interview with Jaycee Dugard on Sunday.

Kidnapped at the age of 11 and kept in captivity for 18 years where she was raped, handcuffed and gave birth to two girls, Jaycee Dugard said she could not dream of escaping because she was so badly manipulated.

"I've asked myself that question many times. I know there was no leaving. The mind manipulation plus the physical abuse I suffered in the beginning, there was no leaving," Dugard, now 31, told ABC television in an interview ahead of her memoir "A Stolen Life," due to be released today.

Dugard was rescued in northern California along with her two daughters in 2009, when her kidnapper and convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido aroused suspicion while on campus at a northern California university.

"I didn't want there to be any more secrets. ... I hadn't done anything wrong. It wasn't something I did that caused this to happen. And I feel that by putting it all out there, it's very freeing." DUGARD

Dugard has since been reunited with the family that lost her in 1991 and lives with her mother and the two children Garrido fathered with Dugard when she was a teenager.

She told ABC in Sunday's interview how she survived the ordeal where she was initially raped with the threat of a stun gun — which was also used to kidnap her off the side of a road — until it and the use of handcuffs were no longer needed to keep her from fleeing.

"There's a switch that I had to shut off," she said. "I mean, I can't imagine being beaten to death, you know? And you can't imagine being kidnapped and raped, you know? So, it's just, you just do what you have to do to survive." REUTERS

One dead in Amtrak collision

BOSTON. A dump truck trying to beat a passenger train through a railway crossing collided with the locomotive in Maine yesterday, killing the truck driver, an Amtrak spokesman said.

The train, carrying 112 passengers from Boston to Portland, was about 40 miles south of its final destination when the crash occurred in North Berwick, Maine, at 11 a.m., police said.

The incident was the second accident involving a truck hitting an Amtrak train in the last month. Six people died when a tractor-trailer rig barreled through railroad gates in Nevada on June 24.

REUTERS

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Corum	$3,000	LeCourtte	$6,000	Musical Watches	$37,500
Ditishiem	$14,000	Longines	$13,000	Pocket Watches	$52,500
Dudley	$11,500	Movado	$2,500	Regular Watches	$11,000
E. Howard & Co.	$12,000	Omega	$2,500	Repeating Watches	$65,000
Elgin	$750	Rolex	$16,000	Stop Watches	$11,000
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Smaller business

- Study: Startups leaner, grow less
- Fewer companies surviving now

New businesses are starting leaner and with fewer employees than was the case in the past, an independent study showed yesterday, suggesting that the pace of job creation will remain frustratingly slow.

The study found that this trend was already entrenched well before the 2007-09 recession, which destroyed more than 8 million jobs.

Startups are key to long-term employment growth. The study drew on data on new establishments from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau to paint a bleak picture of an economy struggling to generate enough jobs to absorb the 14.1 million unemployed Americans.

Job growth has stalled in recent months, with employers adding a scant 18,000 workers to their payrolls in June and the unemployment rate ticking up to 9.2 percent from 9.1 percent in May. Nonfarm employment increased a meager 25,000 in May.

Prior to the recession, roughly 45-50 percent of startups survived. But the survival rate has dropped below 45 percent. REUTERS

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▶ Analysis of BLS data shows employment at new businesses dropped from a peak of 4.7 million jobs annually between 1997 and 2000 to less than 2.5 million in 2010.

Obama pushes GOP on debt compromise

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama increased pressure on Republican lawmakers yesterday to make concessions for a deal to avoid an Aug. 2 debt default and said both sides must "pull off the Band-Aid" and make sacrifices.

The president met with top U.S. lawmakers for the second straight day in the search for a way to break a budget impasse that is holding up a vote on raising the $14.3 trillion debt ceiling.

The Treasury Department has warned it will run out of money to cover the country's bills if Congress does not increase borrowing authority by Aug. 2. REUTERS

Quoted

"If not now, when?" OBAMA

Russian tragedy as boat sinks

SYUKEYEVO, RUSSIA. Russia said there was little hope of finding any more people alive yesterday after an overloaded tourist boat sank in the Volga River, killing 128 people in Russia's worst river accident in three decades.

Eighty people were rescued on Sunday after the Bulgaria, a double-decked river cruiser built in 1955, sank two miles from shore in a broad stretch of the river in Tatarstan. Sixty of the passengers may have been children, Russian media reported. REUTERS

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Revelers dodge deadly bulls

SPAIN. An Australian tourist was gored during the running of the bulls on July 8. Between 200 and 300 participants are injured every year. Of those injuries, only 3 percent are serious. The most recent participant to die during the bull run was in 2009. MWN

165
Members of Pamplona's health services, accompanied by about 16 ambulances, form the medical emergency forces on standby for Running of the Bulls.

PABLO BLAZQUEZ DOMINGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

▶ For eight days, fighting bulls run through the historic heart of Pamplona in Spain.

Quoted

"Tormenting, torturing and violently killing animals for entertainment is an archaic form of human amusement that belongs in the history books."
PETA MANAGER MIMI BEKHECHI

Bulls charge in Spain

SPAIN. A bull ran over a festival participant during the running of the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. Fighting bulls run through the heart of Pamplona for eight days, chasing revelers through four streets and then into the bullring in celebration of Saint Fermin and the bullfighting traditions of the town. MWN

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to.

Ben Stiller is discovering new talent, Sarah Silverman is distracted, Weird Al Yankovic has something to look forward to and Joan Rivers is matchmaking.

▶ **@RedHourBen**
Just saw the most incredible concert by Eddie Vedder. What an amazing energy and talent. I predict a future in the music industry for him.

▶ **@SarahKSilverman**
Cuba Gooding Jr & Matt Damon have the same smile. I've always thought this. Since I was a little girl.

▶ **@alyankovic**
Great news! Just found out my new album is so popular that I'll DEFINITELY be a trending topic on Twitter when I die. #cantwait

▶ **@joan_rivers**
I'm bringing my grandson to London to meet Pippa Middleton! Screw the 18-year age gap. They're both single, and he's a very mature 10.

Rivers

What's in a name?

Victoria and **David Beckham** welcomed their fourth child, a girl named **Harper Seven**, Sunday morning in Los Angeles, according to People magazine. The baby arrived at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces. "Harper is an old English name that [Victoria] has always liked," a source close to Victoria, 37, and David, 36, tells Us Weekly. "**Brooklyn**, **Romeo** and **Cruz** are excited to welcome their new baby sister to the family," a Beckham spokesperson says of the family's three sons. Because of the name Harper Seven, a new game started online where you can make your own Beckham baby name. To find yours, choose the first name of your favorite author and then your favorite Brad Pitt film. So mine would be Flannery the Mexican, which will totally be my mob name if this whole "gossip columnist" stuff doesn't work out.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

So long to Dr. Drew?

Quoted

"Dr. Drew Pinsky is just too busy to continue to do the show."
SOURCE

Dr. Drew Pinsky

While the sixth season of "Celebrity Rehab" is currently airing on VH1 with **Michael Lohan**, **Amy Fisher** and **Bai Ling**, it won't be for much longer, as the reality series is reportedly going on indefinite hiatus, according to Radar Online. "The decision was made to put the show on hiatus because **Dr. Drew Pinsky** is just too busy to continue to do the show," a source says. "The amount of time Dr. Drew has to commit to treating celebrities on the show is a tremendous amount of time." Too busy? Or too evident that his methods are more for entertainment and profits than to truly help the addicts? Sure, we've always known that despite Drew's sober demeanor and credentials, "Celebrity Rehab" was a farce. But then former contestant **Jeff Conaway** died in May, blatantly showing that rehab in exchange for viewers is a deadly way to help addicts. It's all entertainment until someone dies — Dr. Drew now knows he can't dilute his lucrative brand with yet another "celebrity" succumbing to his or her demons.

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Talking points

J. Lo back on 'American Idol'

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly returning for the next season of "American Idol," despite recent speculation that the pop singer and the singing competition would part ways after one season, according to E!

▶ Lopez

Online. Lopez herself had admitted to being "on the fence" about signing up for another round, saying in a radio interview, "I had an amazing time doing it and I loved it, but I have a lot of other things happening, and it's going to come down to me making a decision of what I want to do for the next year." She joins fellow judges **Steven Tyler** and **Randy Jackson**, who have already renewed for the show's 11th season.

Kate preps that model womb

After marrying rocker **Jamie Hince** earlier this month, **Kate Moss** is reportedly cleaning up her act in an effort to get pregnant again, according to Hollyscoop. Moss and Hince are currently celebrating their honeymoon in the Mediterranean on a $15.9 million yacht on loan from Topshop owner Sir Philip Green. "Kate peaked at her wedding with alcohol, cigarettes and bacon butties, but Jamie wants her to become healthier as they try for a child," a source says. "Kate's gone to the Med equipped with wheat grass, barley grass and fish oils, with a view to getting pregnant when she comes home." The supermodel already has one daughter, **Lila Grace**, with former partner **Jefferson Hack**.

myentertainment

The summer of celebrities continues ...

1: Actress Zooey Deschanel was the perfect picture of summer Saturday at the premiere of "Winnie The Pooh" at Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, Calif.

2: Along with Dawn Richards from "Diddy Dirty Money," Diddy volunteered at the Toffee Park Adventure Playground and Youth Centre on Monday in London. It's so strange to see him actually doing manual labor ...

3: This picture is a bit old but she looks so cute you have to see it: Jennifer Aniston attended her Hand And Footprint Ceremony at Grauman's Chinese Theatre last Thursday in Hollywood.

4: Lauren Conrad and Lo Bosworth posed during the Dinosaur Ball at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County on Saturday in Los Angeles.

5: Bristol Palin signed copies of her new book "Not Afraid of Life: My Journey So Far" at Barnes & Noble in Phoenix on Saturday.

6: David Hasselhoff rocked the denim (two tones!) on Sunday while at the T4 On The Beach in Weston-Super-Mare, England.

7: On Sunday, Lemmy Kilmister of Motorhead dedicated his set at Sonisphere 2011 music festival to Motorhead's guitarist Michael Burston, who died on Saturday at 61.

1: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES
2: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
3: CARMEL BOOYS/APPI/GETTY IMAGES
4: RYAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES
5: LAURA SEGALL/ GETTY IMAGES
6: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
7: GARY WOLSTENHOLME/REDFERNS

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Get to know: Christina Perri

Yes, the guy she wrote 'Jar of Hearts' about knows it's about him
She'd love to be on the 'Shore'

LAST LEE SUMMER 2011

▶ Christina Perri plays a sold-out show at the Highline Ballroom on Aug. 2.

Sure, Christina Perri's debut album "Lovestrong" landed in the top five of the Billboard charts the week it debuted, but perhaps even more noteworthy for the 24-year-old musician was the fact her double platinum first single "Jar Of Hearts" was performed by Lea Michele on the "Prom Queen" episode of "Glee" (is there a bigger stamp of having made it for musicians in our new pop culture landscape? Probably not). So now that she's overtaking the airwaves and TV sets, we had the tattooed sensation give us a little bit of background information.

Best piece of advice you've ever been given:
You're enough, just the way you are.

Favorite dish to cook for yourself when you're not in a rush:
My favorite thing to make is a fruit salad. I use 13 different fruits, a melon baller, and I let it marinate in its amazing fruit juice deliciousness. Yum!

What is the most repetitive question you get asked on interviews?
"Does the guy you wrote 'Jar of Hearts' about know it's about him?" The answer is yes! And he thinks it's cool.

What reality show do you secretly want to be cast on?
"The Jersey Shore"!

What celebrity did you have a crush on as a teen?
Axl Rose and Johnny Depp

What's the last song you listened to on repeat?
"Flightless Bird, American Mouth" by Iron + Wine.

You are trapped on a desert island with a TV, a DVD player and the complete series discs of one television program. What is the program?
"Full House."

Best/worst date?
Best date: Dinner and live music. Worst date: No dinner and a night club.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

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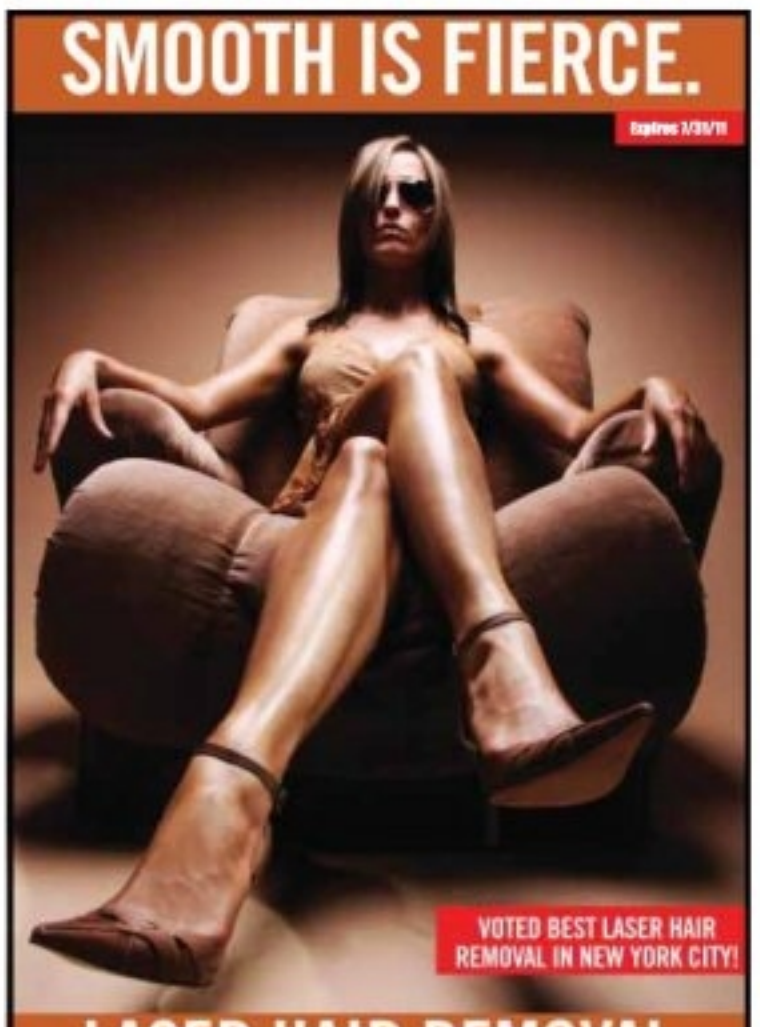

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The devilish charm of Jason Sudeikis

While promoting his new film, 'Horrible Bosses,' the 'Saturday Night Live' actor is quick with the quips And he's a stick figure artist, too

At a press conference for last weekend's box-office hit "Horrible Bosses," it was obvious that of the three leading men — Charlie Day, Jason Bateman and Jason Sudeikis — who hatch a plan to off each others' bosses, it's Sudeikis who has a history of improv.

Cracking wise about one reporter's comment that Jason Bateman has never given a bad performance ("We gotta get you a Netflix account then") and Jennifer Aniston's ubiquity ("That's how I know you! You were on 'Friends'!") the "Saturday Night Live" cast member is always quick with a comeback — even if "Bosses" itself wasn't improvised at all.

"Improvisation for me is like the camera's rolling and we don't know where we're going and let's just waste people's time and money," Sudeikis says. "That's not what happens. All three writers laid out a tremendous framework and we sort of, at the beginning of the day, Charlie, Jason and I — and [director Seth Gordon] — would talk about the scene and we'd develop a different rhythm."

▶ Jason Sudeikis on the set of "Horrible Bosses."

JOHN P. JOHNSON

A picture will last longer

Playing a man who loves his job, except for his new completely inept boss (played by an unrecognizable Colin Farrell), Sudeikis' character also falls into the trap of Charlie Day's man-eating boss, played by Jennifer Aniston. When asked to describe how the off-camera scene with her might've looked, Sudeikis is more than helpful.

"Here's how it went down," he says grabbing a pen and a piece of paper, about to sketch out an illustration. "These are stick figures. It's going to be very crude. Assuming that all our sex organs are in the same position as other people's, you've probably seen what it was before and I probably just held on for dear life."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Does the church belong to God or people. Is it my church or His?

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The Bible calls it the church of God and the church of Christ. As long as it is governed and guided by God's word, it remains His church. As soon as people assume control and determine doctrine, morals, faith and practice it ceases to be God's church. Christ is head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22-23)!

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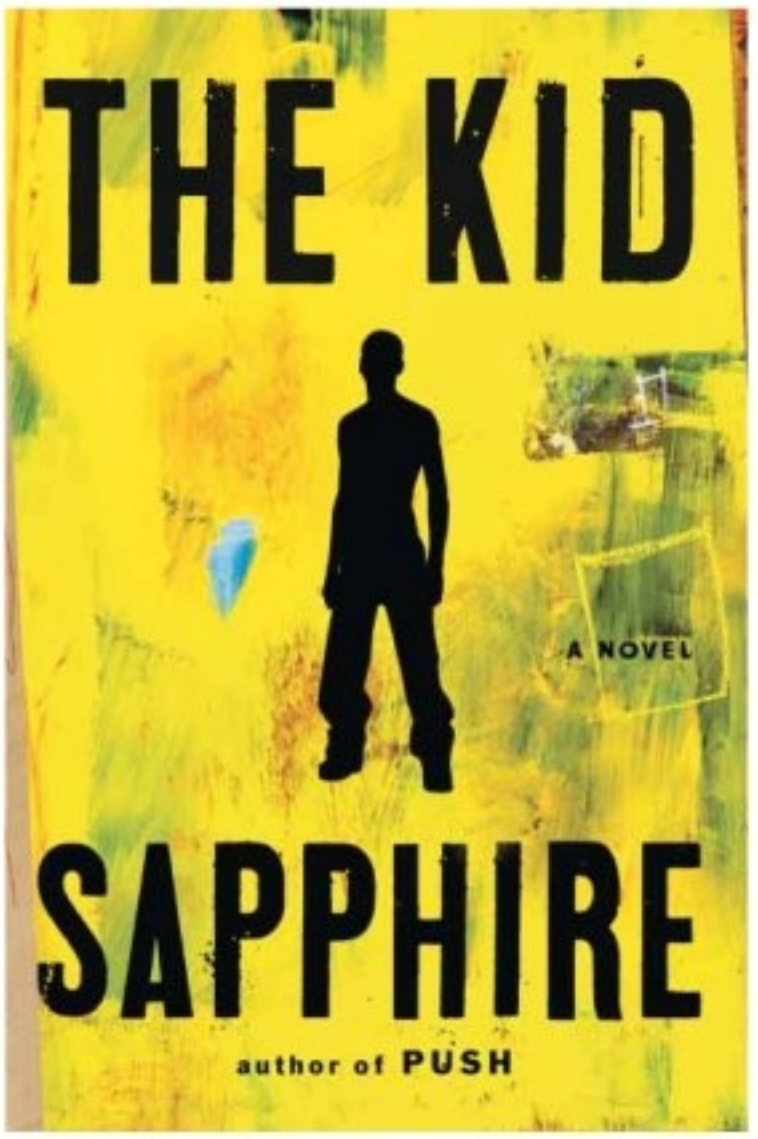

'The Kid' is not all right

Meet 'The Kid,' the follow-up to Sapphire's novel 'Push' Find out what happens toher beloved character Precious — and her son

For the millions of readers who fell in love with the character Precious in Sapphire's 1996 book "Push," and then the Academy-Award winning film adaptation "Precious: Based on the novel Push by Sapphire," the author warns her follow-up novel, "The Kid," is not going to be "your favorite bedtime story with a predictable ending. It's complex and probing."

Indeed. Through 376 sometimes heart-wrenching pages, "The Kid" follows Precious' son Abdul through the death of his mother, then through a myriad of abuse from his foster home to the hands of demented priests of a Catholic boys' home, then to his great-grandmother's roach-filled apartment until he finally finds solace in dance. But even that escape isn't total — in "The Kid," Abdul is a seriously flawed character, one who heaps abuse on others the way it was done to him.

"Precious isn't destroyed by her demons, she's destroyed by poor medical care and indifference," says Sapphire on the difference between her characters.

Quoted

"[It's not] your favorite bedtime story with a predictable ending. It's complex and probing." SAPPHIRE

"Abdul is not destroyed, he is strong enough to fight back. Precious was a total victim. With 'The Kid,' we have to look at a person who is flawed himself."

And despite its bleak tone, Sapphire says "The Kid" isn't a dark novel — it's just a tougher one. "It's just a much harder novel," she claims. "I feel like a lot of people thought she'd get the right medication and live. But because I'm a writer who adheres to social realism, you know women like Precious don't have that outcome. So I took the heaviest parts of what is happening with families who are devastated by AIDS and poverty and put it on the shoulders of Abdul."

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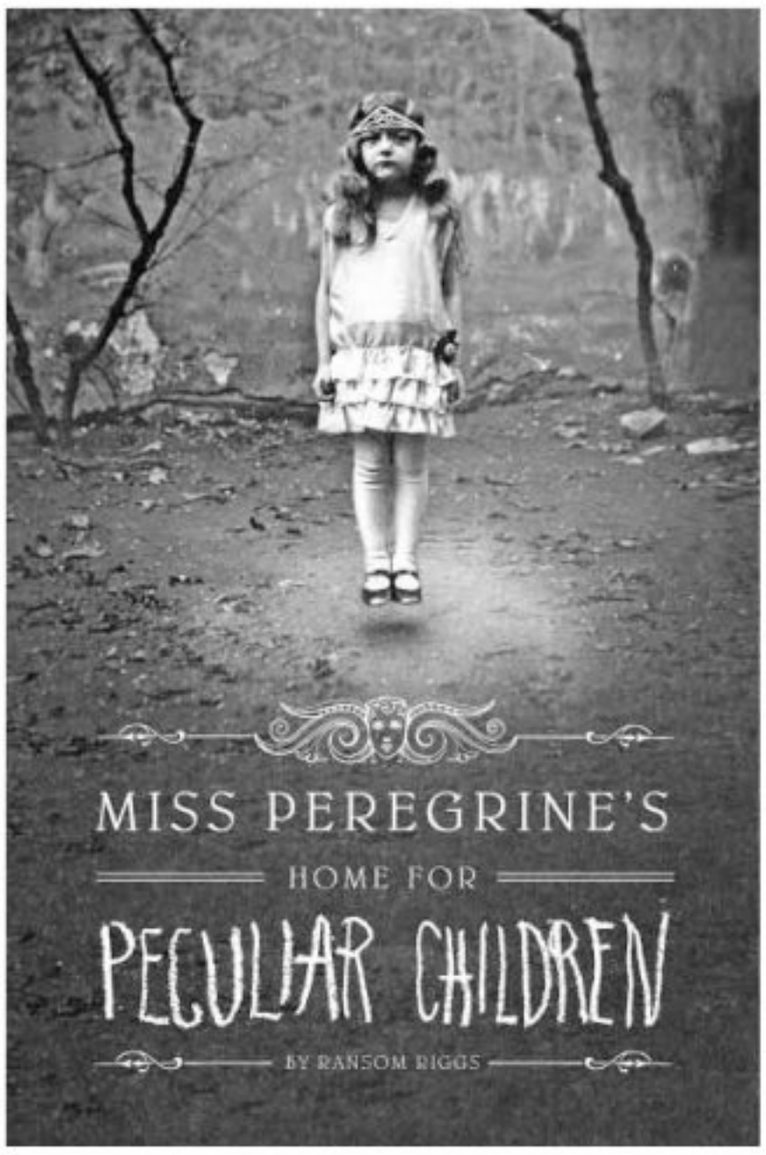

Enter at your own risk

'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' is a little bit 'X-Men,' a little bit 'Harry Potter' and completely, wonderfully creepy Author Ransom Riggs on his new YA novel and eerie vintage photo collection

In his new young adult novel, "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children," Ransom Riggs brews a cauldron of time-tested creep factors. The story takes place on an all but abandoned island off the coast of Wales, where 16-year-old Jacob arrives after losing his grandfather in an accident. Thankfully, there's a creaky old shuttered orphanage to keep him busy.

The tale is accompanied by vintage photographs that inspired the orphanage's otherworldly inhabitants. "I was sort of an amateur collector of antique snapshots, and I started to get this little stash of peculiar photos of kids from a long time ago. At some point I had to say, 'Who are these kids?'" Riggs explains.

As much as we're freaked out by glassy-eyed children in Victorian clothing, we caught up with the author to find out more.

Riggs

Coming soon

The film rights for "Miss Peregrine" have already been sold to 20th Century Fox, but Riggs is keeping it all in perspective: "I have very simple wishes for the movie: I hope that it's good and that people like it."

Wait — "Ransom Riggs." It just looks too good on the cover. Is that your real name?
It was a liability as a child, but yes, it's my given name.

What kind of photo inspired a character?
There just has to be something I didn't expect, something creepy in a certain way. If I'm looking for something very specific, I'll never find it. But sometimes I'll just be flipping through a pile and think "Oh! That girl has a snake around her neck."

How did you like writing for a younger audience?
I didn't think much about it — it was kind of in the back of my mind that this was for young adults. When I was that age, I could smell from a mile away if they were writing down to me. That's the thing about kids. That, and if they're enthusiastic about it, they're really enthusiastic about it. They're going, "Where is the second one?" And I'm going, "I'm working on it! I'm working on it!"

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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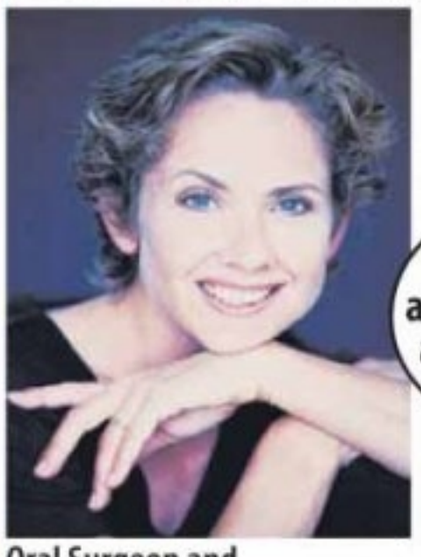
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Serge Hodonou's top eyebrow shapers

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2. MAC eyebrow pencil
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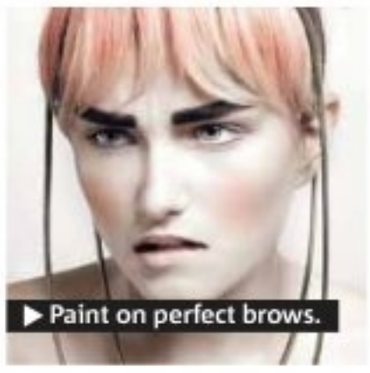
3. Chantecaille eyebrow brush
"This keeps the brows looking natural." **$21, www.chantecaille.com**

Tips for building a bigger, bolder brow

The bushy eyebrow is the trendiest it's been since Brooke Shields rocked Calvins ◗ Celebrity makeup artist Serge Hodonou explains how to create the look at home ◗ 'You need to create proportion,' he tells us

Whether you want Kate Middleton's regal arches or the wild, wolf-like gaze of model Natalia Vodianova, the first step is to stop overplucking and let your eyebrows grow. Paris-based makeup artist Serge Hodonou, whose clients include Bjork and Freida Pinto, talks us through the next steps.


▶ Paint on perfect brows.

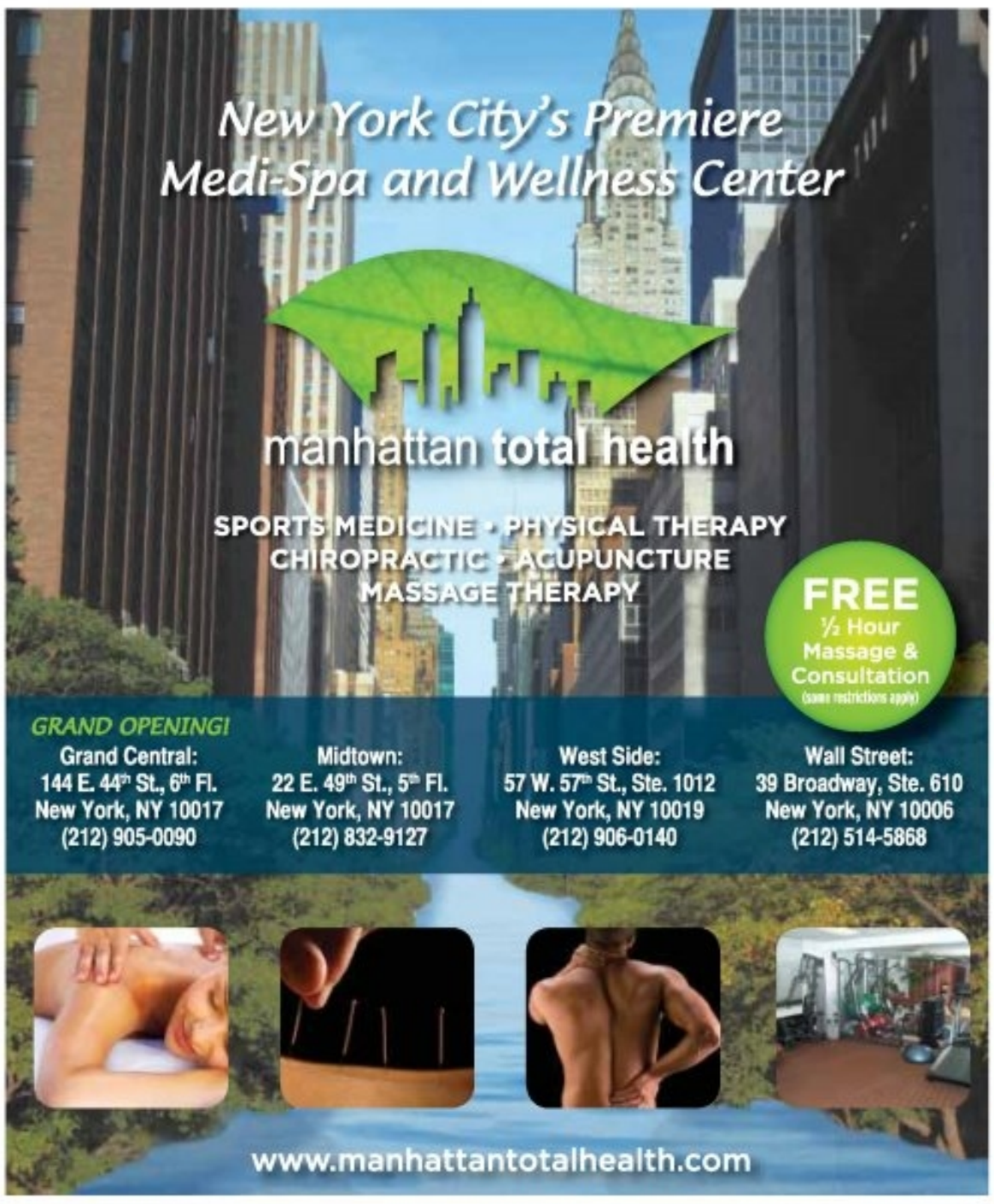
Identify your face shape: "You need to create proportion," Hodonou says. "On a long, angular face, a curved brow will add roundness and softness. On a more rounded face, straight brows will create a more angular, defined structure."

Choose the right color: "Stick to shades of brown and stay clear of black, as this will bring harshness to the face, even on natural brunettes," he says. "Blondes should go for a shade just a little darker than their natural color, such as light brown."

Create your shape: "Thickly draw in the shape you want with an eyebrow pencil or some loose powder. I don't use a liquid eyeliner pen because it doesn't look natural. Apply a lot of color on the top half of the eyebrow (not under), as this will help lengthen and widen your gaze. Once you reach the tip of the eyebrow, never go too low, as this will drag the eye down."

Tap it out: "Aim for natural, not drag queen. Tap and brush the color using your fingers and then use a Q-tip to remove any excess. Use the Q-tip to blend in the color and avoid graphic straight lines that look fake," he says.

ROMINA McGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON



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Letters

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The rich get it both ways!

According to the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, four out of five states are facing huge budget gaps since the 2008 recession. Out of those states, 30 of them cut spending and increased taxes to eliminate those gaps. The majority of these states were Republican-leaning states. Logic dictates that the only way to close a gap is to force both ends together (cut spending, raise taxes). If Republicans can do it for their home state, why can't they do it for their country?

RICH BRITTLE SR., VIA E-MAIL

It's puzzling to me the near-agreement to reduce the national debt by increasing the retirement age. Yeah, baby, let's all work till we are 70, that is really going to create lots of job openings for the young'uns. That and more tax loopholes for the wealthy. Way to go America!

SUZY SANDOR, NEW YORK

I get so sick of hearing Republican politicians wanting to cut Medicare and Social Security. This is not their money to cut! Social Security was set up as a separate account, a trust fund. The interest generated from the deposits

"We have all but made America a debtor's nation, enslaving future generations with a level of debt that will force them to choose between lives of crushing poverty or national bankruptcy."

JANET MCCARTHY, FLUSHING

would have supported payout to the end of time. Greedy politicians used this money for all manner of things other then the intended purpose. Cut the fat from D.C. before you

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touch money that makes the difference between living or starving to death! **MARY FISHER, VIA E-MAIL**

Across the country, there is a heated debate about the federal budget. Many make the mistaken claim that the U.S. government is broke. However, the real discussion should be about how we spend the money that we do have. Budgets are about choices. Our elected officials can choose to continue giving handouts to the oil industry that has already made $38 billion in profits in the first three months of 2011. They can choose to give tax breaks to people who buy second and third vacation houses, or they can choose to ensure that working families can keep a roof over their heads.

MARC PELLETIER, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It won't be necessary for you to have to ask for parity with associates. The acknowledgement you get from them regarding their feelings toward you will be sincere and welcoming.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Strive to participate in activities that might be a bit challenging but are ones you thoroughly enjoy doing. It will not only rejuvenate your outlook but will get your mind working.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Needed information from reluctant sources can be gotten more easily by asking indirect questions rather than being openly aggressive. People talk freely when they aren't pushed.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It is generally the little things we do and say to friends that make the most lasting impressions. A small deed from you will register and be cherished for a long time to come.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Even though you are likely to be far more clever in financial matters than those with whom you'll have dealings, you won't take advantage.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Don't be surprised to hear from someone who has moved away and now resides at quite a distance from you. You're very much in the thoughts of this person at this time.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Even though you've been aware of an endeavor that you know you would fit into quite well, you've done nothing about it. You're wanted, so do something about it now.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You are already aware of all the things you know, but new knowledge can be acquired from others if you draw them out and get them talking.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Many of those with whom you're involved might overlook some significant details, but not you. That is the very reason why you'll fare much better.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Being able to get along with everybody, you're a welcome addition to any gathering. However, the people you'll enjoy the most today are those who share your philosophy and politics.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you're not getting the elasticity from your funds that you want, take the time to examine why. There is no better day than now for improvement.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Your personality is one that makes all of your friends feel they are fun to be around. You'll do this today without using flattery, but accepting pals for who they are. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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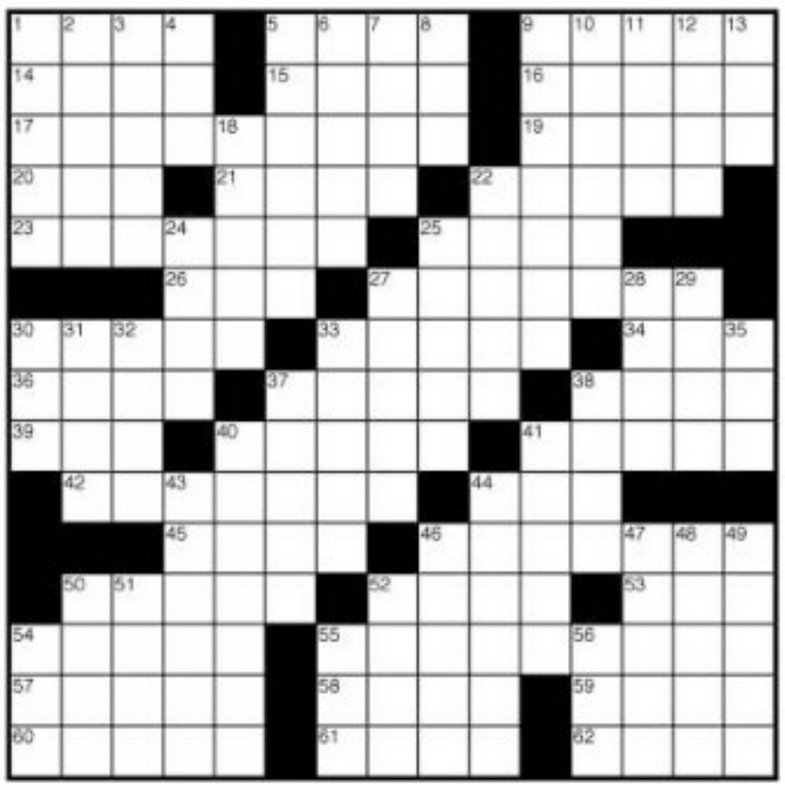
1 Now!
5 Soften
9 Comics Pinhead
14 Wrist bone
15 One from Dundee
16 Novelist Zola
17 Stone Age period
19 French clerics
20 Danson of "Cheers"
21 Wolf's expression
22 Strange
23 Genus members
25 Shapeless mass
26 Loud thud
27 Cat breed
30 Gawked at
33 Georgetown athletes
34 Work in the garden
36 Waterfall sound
37 Hoosier poet
38 Bamboo stalk
39 Chiang __-shek
40 Hot-tub wood
41 Why? (2 wds.)
42 Kind of park
44 Uncle or granddad
45 Pate de foie __
46 Lama, usually
50 Compassion
52 Ricky Ricardo
53 Insurance gp.
54 Desert transport
55 Horrific
57 "Justine" star
58 Nautical position
59 Otherwise
60 Fabulous time
61 Guinea pigs, maybe
62 Must-have



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1 Anagram of "tunas"
2 Lie dormant
3 Battery terminal
4 Confidant
5 Regard highly
6 Feels sore
7 Paris evening
8 Common abbr.
9 Fanatics
10 Drink
11 Mocking comment
12 Campbell of country music
13 Be my guest!
18 Old war story
22 Relieve
24 Driver with a handle
25 Aspirin brand
27 Grinding tooth
28 Henry Higgins' creator
29 Untold centuries
30 Sitcom planet
31 Capricorn symbol
32 Covert
33 Pelts
35 Want-ad abbr.
37 Deliver a message
38 Ice-cream treat
40 Wreath of flowers
41 Custom
43 Thinks the same
44 Overlooks
46 Core principle
47 Oar fulcrum
48 Divert
49 Snooped around
50 Postcard, maybe
51 Madame Bovary
52 Allot
54 Yellow vehicle
55 Atlas page
56 Stimpy's buddy

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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5 Tips for saving on gas for road trips

Fodor's Tips

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▶ Rising gas prices can really put a dent into your summer travel plans.

travel tips

1 Look for travel deals with gas cards or gas rebates
Lodging options and destinations are offering gas-oriented incentives this summer, like the impressive $75 gift cards from Intercontinental Hotels Vacation Pay program. You can also search for deals on tourism sites like Exploreasheville.com or save on bed-and-breakfasts though the B&Bs Kick Gas promotion on Betterway tostay.com. To ensure the deal will work for you, be sure to read the fine print.

2 Use the Web to find the cheapest gas
Gas prices are greatly influenced by state gas taxes. A website operated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, www.fueleconomy.gov, gives national and regional average prices. More helpful are sites like Gasbuddy.com and Gaspricewatch.com, which use tips from consumers to rank the lowest and highest gas prices in a particular area. Note, though, that the information on these sites can be outdated, so it's best to use them as a general guideline.

3 Look for clusters of gas stations when refueling
If you're driving down the interstate looking for a place to refill your gas tank, avoid the exits that have just one or two stations. You'll save money at exits with three or more stations, since competition helps drive down prices.

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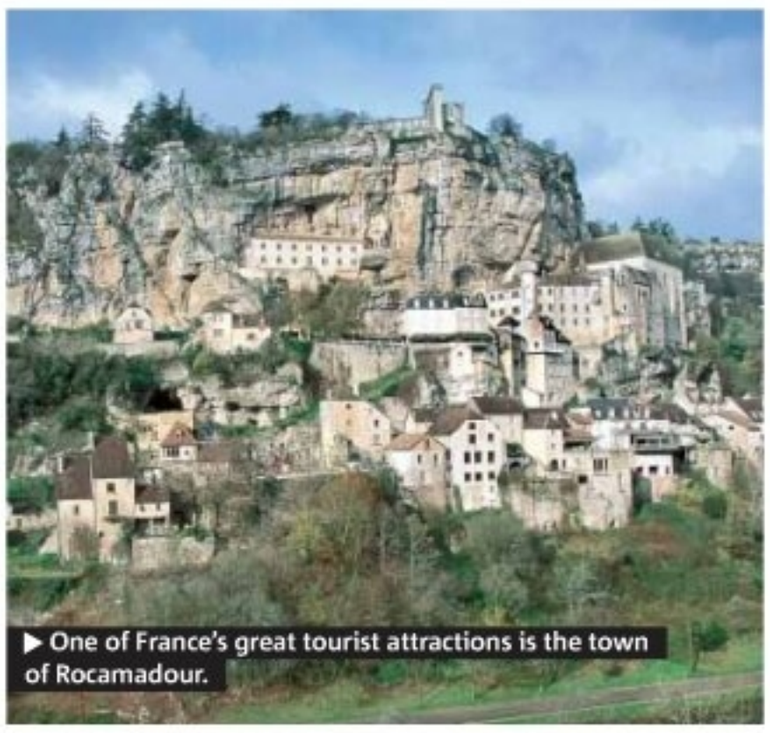
france

Getting lost in Lot Valley

Escape to the rural, quiet beauty of the Lot Valley, located in the southwest of France Have a medieval experience or go on a tasting tour of the Vin de Cahors

Nestled in the oxbows of the snaking Lot River, unseen in the shadows of neighboring destinations Bordeaux and Toulouse and far removed, geographically and mentally, from the bustle and crowds of Paris, the Lot Valley is a treasure buried in bucolic southwest France. Majestic chateaus tower over medieval villages, alternating with vast stretches of grapevines in a countryside toiled by generations of winemakers,

SHAUN BRADY
shaun.brady@metro.us



▶ One of France's great tourist attractions is the town of Rocamadour.

Where to stay

To live the medieval experience full-time, visitors can stay at the 13th-century **Chateau de Mercues (www.chateaudemercues.com)**, overlooking the Lot. But the valley is also well-stocked with more intimate and charming (and much less expensive) chambres d'hotes, the French equivalent to the bed and breakfast **(www.chambresdhotesfrance.com)**.

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Where to eat

It's nearly impossible to have a bad meal anywhere, but the Lot boasts two one-star Michelin restaurants: **Le Gindreau (www.legindreau.com)**, in St. Medard, home of the gregarious and elaborately mustachioed chef Alexis Pelissou and **Le Balandre (www.balandre.com)**, in Cahor's Hotel Terminus. For a more relaxed atmosphere but a no less exquisite meal, try La Recreation in nearby Les Arques, housed in a former schoolhouse. The village also houses a museum to post-Cubist artist Ossip Zadkine. On the other end of the spectrum, you can eat on the very farm where the food (many of them are centered around ducks for foie gras) is raised at Ferme Auberges, like Ferme Aux delices de la Serpt.

Where to go

The Lot's population center is the city of Cahors, site of the 14th-century Pont Valentre bridge. But a journey to the Lot is about the rural, not the urban, so it's best to strike out from Cahors and explore the countryside. There are hundreds of wineries, most of which offer tastings of the local Vin de Cahors, which consists largely of the Malbec grape. The region's history is on display along every mountain road, but can be more fully explored at **Chateau de Castelnaud (www.castelnaud.com)**, a restored fortress from the Middle Ages, or **Rocamadour (www.rocamadour.com)**, a cliffside village with it's 15th-century church built into the rocks.

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GRITTY, GUTTY METS

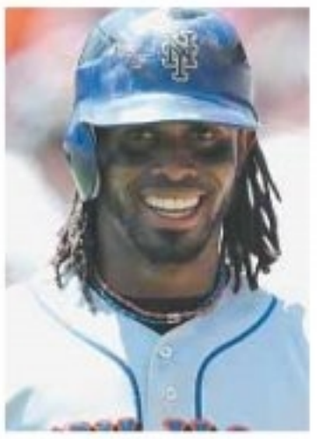
No Wright, no Ike, no Johan ... no problem? They've been typically injury-prone, but the Mets are over .500 The real question – are they buyers or sellers in late July? MARK OSBORNE

D David Wright: First 39 games – awful. After that ... well he's missed every game. There's not much good to say about Wright, but presumably he won't hit .226 when he comes back.

A Carlos Beltran: The exact opposite of Wright. He was coming off his second straight injury-plagued season and no one was expecting him to have 43 extra-base hits. Now, do you re-sign him?

F Jason Bay: Bay is being paid $16M this season. That's $1.45M per extra-base hit, $2.7M per HR and $571K per RBI. Look on the bright side, he's only due $32M more.

A+ Jose Reyes: It won't get any better than this season Mets fans – and not just because he might never play for you again. He's the best player in New York and it isn't close. Bring him back!



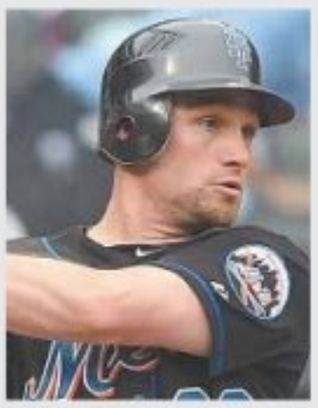
B– Ike Davis: A very promising season went the way of the DL and he may be out for the season. Still, Davis showed signs of being a future star so let's look on the bright side.

B Justin Turner: He might have cooled down since bursting on the scene, but when you are being compared to Luis Castillo it is hard to look bad. You'd take a .270 BA and .330 OBP any day.

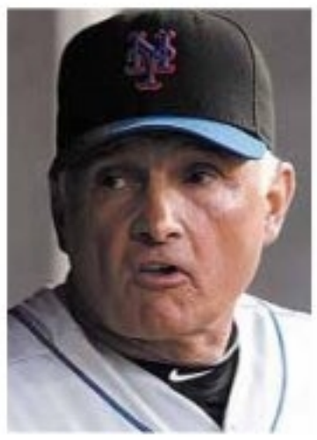
B+ Ronny Paulino: Paulino has given the team a boost since his return from suspension/INS. Josh Thole was struggling and Paulino's .320 average is impressive.

C Angel Pagan: It's no surprise Pagan has fallen back to Earth after his last two seasons. He is still a Gold Glove caliber defender though. Oh, and he's not Jason Bay, so there's that too.

B+ Daniel Murphy: Anyone else notice Murphy is 12th in the NL in batting average? He still has no position, but he can hit. He's finally showing why Omar Minaya loved him.



B Terry Collins: We still wonder what Collins was thinking with the second base position this spring training, but he's handled the multitude of injuries better than Willie Randolph or Jerry Manuel.



D Mike Pelfrey: The Mets expected Pelfrey to step up when Johan Santana went down. Five wins and a 4.88 ERA are the antithesis of that. He's been their fifth-best starting pitcher.

B Chris Capuano: No one will be fooled into thinking he's a star, but he's had quality starts in six of his last seven games. He's on pace to make 32 starts and win 15 games. That's impressive.

A– Dillon Gee: The real (positive) surprise of the Mets' rotation. His eight wins, 3.76 ERA and .222 BAA are far beyond what was expected from the rookie. He's not an ace, but he's a future No. 2.

B+ Middle relief: The setup roles have been one of the strengths for the Mets. Bobby Parnell is a closer and Pedro Beato and Jason Isringhausen have both been good. They need a lefty though.

B Francisco Rodriguez: Can you count to 55? Can Terry Collins? The Mets must trade him before he reaches his 55 games finished incentive and he's been good enough to do so.

3

Mets outlook

Should he stay or go?

Mets GM Sandy Alderson will have some tough decisions in a few weeks on K-Rod, Beltran and Reyes. Rodriguez's option will vest automatically if he finishes 55 games. Reyes, well he's having an MVP season, and Beltran is an All-Star. The trading deadline is July 31. METRO

NL wild card

Mets look to wild card

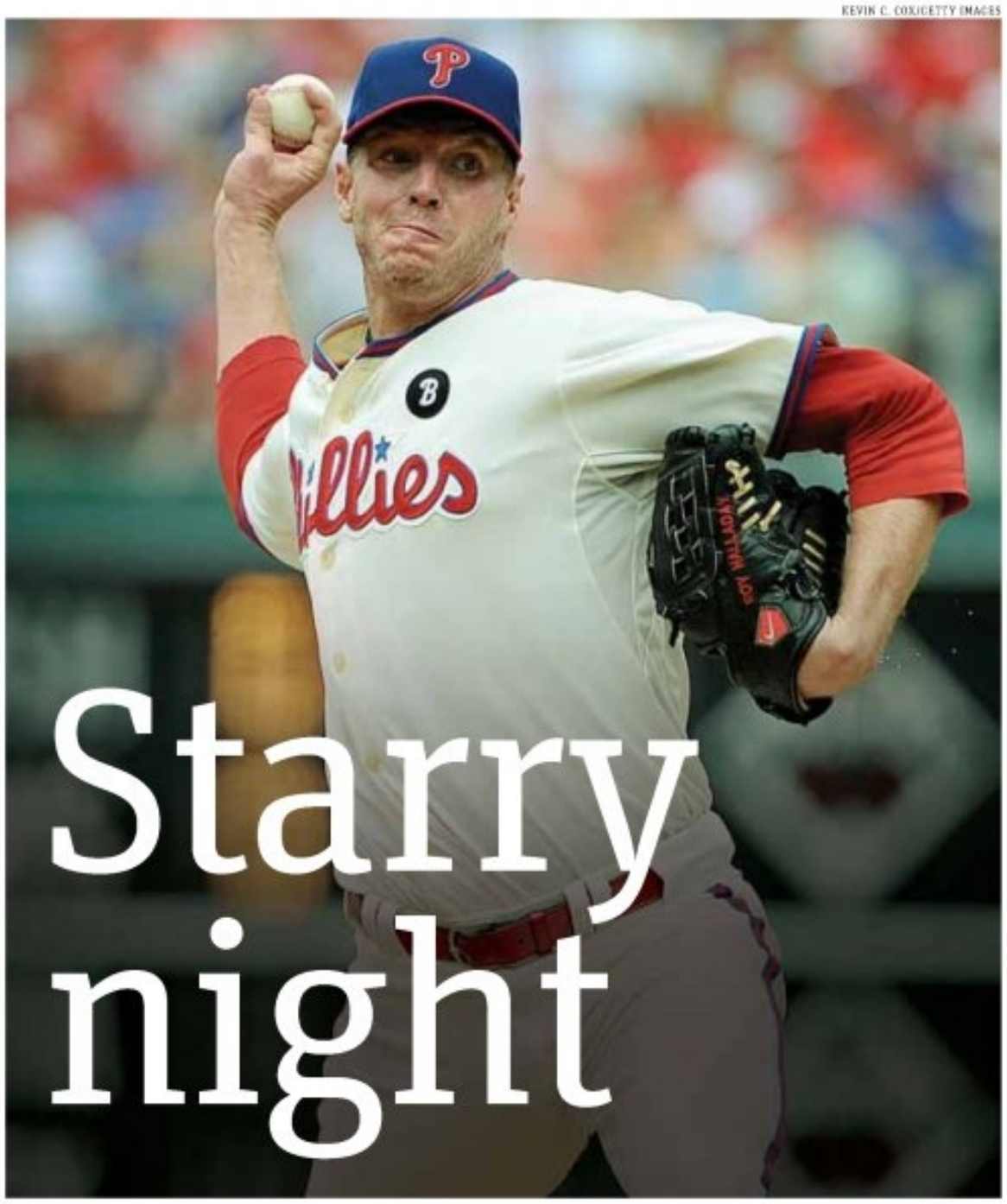
Right now the Mets are 7.5 games behind Atlanta in the NL wild-card standings, but will face them nine more times – six at Citi Field.

The good news is the other contenders are all bunched within 2.5 games and include the Pirates and Diamondbacks.

Four Yankees (and Met Jose Reyes) are skipping the All-Star Game, but there is still much at stake
World Series home-field goes to winner Ready to pin your hopes on Ryan Vogelsong or Brandon League?

Starry night

KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES



Tonight's All-Star Game may lack some big names, but it still decides home-field advantage in the World Series.

Ever since the rosters were announced last Sunday the dropouts began. Jose Reyes, Derek Jeter and Shane Victorino are a few of the 16 players who were named, but won't play.

If you're a Phillies, Red Sox or Yankees fan — the top three teams in baseball by record — you better get to know the names Alexi Ogando, Aaron Crow and Jonny Venters fast, because they will be deciding who hosts four games in the World Series.

Some names you will know

NL fans will know their starting pitcher — Roy Halladay.

The Phillies ace comes into tonight's game with an 11-3 record and 2.45 ERA. If you're looking for relief, The Beard (SF's Brian Wilson) will be your ninth-inning pitcher.

AL fans will be rooting for a lot of Sox — six Boston players made the roster. METRO

American League

STARTERS

NAME	POSITION	TEAM
ALEX AVILA	C	DET
ADRIAN GONZALEZ	1B	BOS
ROBINSON CANO	**2B**	**NYY**
ADRIAN BELTRE#	3B	TEX
ASDRUBAL CABRERA#	SS	CLE
JOSE BAUTISTA	OF	TOR
CURTIS GRANDERSON	OF	NYY
JOSH HAMILTON	OF	TEX
DAVID ORTIZ	DH	BOS
JERED WEAVER	SP	LAA

NOTABLE RESERVES

NAME	POSITION	TEAM
JOSH BECKETT	P	BOS
JON LESTER	P	BOS
KEVIN YOUKILIS#	3B	BOS
JACOBY ELLSBURY	OF	BOS
ALEX RODRIGUEZ*	**3B**	**NYY**
DEREK JETER*	**SS**	**NYY**
RUSSELL MARTIN	**C**	**NYY**
DAVID ROBERTSON#	P	NYY
MARIANO RIVERA*	**P**	**NYY**
CC SABATHIA*	P	NYY

* — INJURED; # — REPLACEMENT

Quoted

"I want to make sure I had someone who can stand whatever heat is applied."

AL MANAGER RON WASHINGTON, ON CHOOSING JOSE VALVERDE TO CLOSE

National League

STARTERS

NAME	POSITION	TEAM
BRIAN MCCANN	C	ATL
PRINCE FIELDER	1B	MIL
RICKIE WEEKS	2B	MIL
SCOTT ROLEN	3B	CIN
TROY TULOWITZKI	SS	COL
LANCE BERKMAN	OF	STL
MATT KEMP	OF	LAD
MATT HOLLIDAY	OF	STL
CARLOS BELTRAN	**DH**	**NYM**
ROY HALLADAY	SP	PHL

NOTABLE RESERVES

NAME	POSITION	TEAM
CLIFF LEE	P	PHL
CHIPPER JONES	3B	ATL
RYAN BRAUN	OF	MIL
TIM LINCECUM	P	SFG
JAIR JURRJENS	P	ATL
JUSTIN UPTON	OF	ARZ
CLAYTON KERSHAW	P	LAD
HEATH BELL	P	SD
PABLO SANDOVAL	3B	SF
JOSE REYES*	**SS**	**NYM**

* — INJURED; # — REPLACEMENT

Quoted

"I couldn't have a better guy to start the All-Star Game for us."

NL MANAGER BRUCE BOCHY, ON NAMING ROY HALLADAY AS NL STARTER

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NFL lockout nearing end?

DILIP VISHWANAT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith and the league may be nearing a new CBA.

Reports say new CBA could be ratified at July 21 league meetings

ESPN.com is reporting the NFL and NFL Players' Association may be nearing an agreement to end the current lockout.

According to ESPN, the two sides may have an agreement in place that could be ratified when the league holds its annual meetings July 21.

As for what the new CBA would look like is another story. ESPN reports the current issues are over the rookie wage scale. The NFL has never had a scale, unlike the NBA, and rookies have received massive contracts while yet to play. Sam Bradford, 2010's No. 1 overall pick, signed a six-year, $78 million contract with $50 million guaranteed.

By contrast, two-time Super Bowl champion Ben Roethlisberger made just $36 million guaranteed when he re-signed in 2008. METRO

Sports in brief

A-Rod surgery a success

MLB. The Yankees announced yesterday afternoon that Alex Rodriguez's knee surgery went as expected and there were no complications.

Dr. Lee Kaplan, who performed the surgery, will assist in early rehabilitation in Miami.

He is expected to return to the Yankees lineup in 4-6 weeks.

Vrabel retires, heads to tOSU

NFL. Former Patriots linebacker — and Jets nightmare — Mike Vrabel announced his retirement from the NFL after 14 seasons.

Vrabel had 57 career sacks. He also caught 10 career passes — all touchdowns.

Vrabel will take over as an assistant coach at Ohio State. METRO

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LAURELTON 130th Ave - 1 family, Bank Foreclosure 4BR Cape, 3 bths, big bkyd, pvt drvwy/gar, full bsmt, $165K any credit. Owner 718-755-5625

♦ LAURELTON ♦ 1 Fam, Close to All, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 bths, Det, Big Bkyd, Pvt Drvwy, Low Down. Owner pays closing costs. Owner 516-972-0866.

Rough Cabin on 6 acres, open with pond. Year-round maintained road. Coventry Area. Owner financing. $8000 down. $465/mo. Only $42,900. Bill Hunt, Sidney, NY ★ 607-563-1190 ★

Homes

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REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 6203 13th Ave Realty LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/04/2009. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: C/O The LLC, 6203 13th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11219 which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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